

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected all claims (20-22, inclusive) under 35 U.S.C. § 112 because of the presence of the term “-like” in these claims, rejected claims 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on the basis of a combination of U.S. Patents Nos. 5,894,677 to Hoffman, 1,860,635 to Thompson, and 6,442,863 to Poineau et al., and rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 35 § 103(a) on the basis of a combination of Hoffman and Thompson.

In the Specification, no changes

In the Claims, claim 21 amended; claims 20 and 22 cancelled.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner’s Action, and by the present Amendment propose amendments to the claims which now clear the way for allowance of the single remaining claim.

Specifically, applicants have cancelled claims 20 and 22 without prejudice, and have currently amended claim 21 to remove the hyphenated expression “ribbon-like”, thus to meet the Examiner’s rejection of this claim solely under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Accordingly, claim 21 is now in a condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and objections state in the Office action, and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

Customer Number

23855

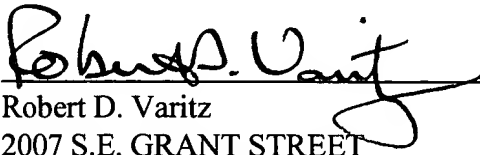
Respectfully Submitted,

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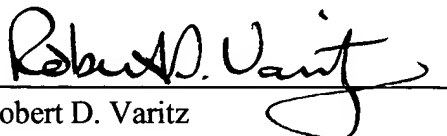
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I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

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Robert D. Varitz